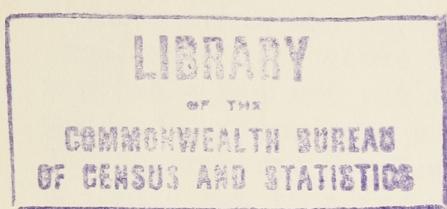


15th November, 1949.

B.S.E. 1949/9



NEW SOUTH WALES

22 NOV 1949

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS

Contents.

	<u>Page</u>
<u>GENERAL</u>	92
<u>PART 1: EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES</u>	
Employment	September, 1949
Oversea Migration	Year 1948-49
Coal Production	September, 1949
Wages & Salaries	June Quarter
Gas & Electricity	September, 1949
Industrial Disputes	September, 1949
New South Wales Railways	September, 1949
Motor Vehicle Registration	September, 1949
Air Transport Services	Year 1948-49
Iron & Steel Production	September, 1949
<u>PART 2: FINANCE AND TRADE</u>	
Savings Bank Deposits	September, 1949
Trading Banks	September, 1949
New South Wales Accounts	September, 1949
Retail Trade, Sydney	August, 1949
Sydney Stock Exchange	October, 1949
Commonwealth Accounts	September, 1949
Real Estate	October, 1949
Oversea Trade	September, 1949
<u>PART 3: RURAL INDUSTRIES.</u>	
The Season	102
Wheat	102
Dairying	103
Wool	103

GENERAL:

Industry recovered in September from the effects of the coal strike which terminated on 15th August. Output of coal, iron and steel in September exceeded the pre-strike level. Gas and electricity supplies were restored and production figures available for September, e.g., engines, motors, electrical refrigerators etc., were well above May, 1949. However, recorded employment at the end of September had not yet fully regained the pre-strike peak although only a few hundred persons were receiving unemployment benefits. Commonwealth Employment Service reports for New South Wales indicate that the labour position has eased slightly but that industry could still absorb many more workers than are offering for employment. At the end of September 28,750 vacancies were registered as against 8,000 disengaged persons seeking jobs (many of them difficult to place because of age or disabilities.) Migration is the chief source of new labour; by the end of September about 10,000 New Australians from D.P. camps had been placed in jobs in this State.

The rural industries are experiencing a good season. Dairy output is higher than for some years and a good wheat crop is expected if favourable weather conditions continue until and during harvesting. Keen bidding by oversea buyers is keeping wool prices high, and the average of 51½d per lb. greasy for October was 10% above the average for the 1948-49 season.

PART 1. EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES

EMPLOYMENT - New South Wales.

Employment in New South Wales (other than rural workers and female domestics) fell during the coal strike from 991,600 (as at end of May, 1949) to 880,800 (end of July), a decrease of 11%, but the number stood down was probably greater as some recorded on payrolls may not have been working at the end of July. During August and September recorded employment increased by 105,100 to 985,900 (715,900 men and 270,000 women), - that is still 5,700 below the May figure; this fall is greater when it is considered that several thousand migrants were placed in jobs during this period. Nevertheless, there is no evidence of a significant labour surplus; some men were probably awaiting reinstatement after the strike and others may have gone into shearing and other rural jobs. Persons in receipt of unemployment benefits reached a peak of 101,000 at the end of July and decreased to 665 at the end of September (334 in November).

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES (excl. Employers & Workers on own account) in thousands.

Month	WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT					Men from N.S.W. in Armed Forces.
	Rural Males (a)	Domestics Females (b)	All other Wage Earners	Males	Females	
1939-July	41	52	530	168	698	6
1945-July	23	19	541	247	788	224
1948-July	31	n.a.	702	263	965	14
1949-May	32	n.a.	722	270	992	13
-July		n.a.	637	244	881	13
-August		n.a.	701	266	967	13
-September		n.a.	716	270	986	13

(a) Ascertained in March; permanent employees only. (b) Employed in private households.

Note: The number of employees recorded on Pay-roll Tax returns relate to those whose names appeared on the last pay roll of the month irrespective of whether they were actually working at the end of the month.

Employment in factories, retail stores, railways and airways was still appreciably below the pre-strike level at the end of September. Building and constructions employment reached a peak of 67,200 (4,700 more than in September, 1948) and employment in road transport and communications, commerce and finance and in the service industries was also considerably higher than a year earlier.

EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES - NEW SOUTH WALES (in thousands).

Month	Factor- ies	Building & Construct- ion	Mining & Quarry- ing	Transport & Commun- ication.	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Profess'1 &Person'l Services	Other	Total Wage& Salary Earners
1939-July	218.1	58.4	24.8	81.6	80.0	67.5	105.7	61.8	697.9
1945-July	302.3	34.9	24.9	100.5	67.7	56.7	115.4	85.5	787.9
1947-July	342.5	58.0	26.9	115.5	87.5	79.0	140.0	80.2	929.6
1948-Septen.	358.4	62.5	28.3	121.5	92.4	84.6	145.1	77.7	970.5
1949-May	363.0	65.9	27.8	125.6	93.6	88.2	148.5	79.0	991.6
-June	346.1	66.1	24.7	125.6	92.8	87.6	147.2	79.4	969.5
-July	284.1	64.0	12.0	123.7	89.6	85.7	142.5	79.2	880.8
-Aug.	348.0	65.0	25.0	122.9	91.8	88.7	146.0	79.8	967.2
-Sept.	357.3	67.2	27.9	124.5	91.9	89.2	147.6	80.3	985.9

Factory employment fell from 363,000 in May, 1949 to 284,100 in July and was back at 357,300 in September, - the decrease as against May being mainly in male employment in the metal trades, possibly due to continuing shortages of materials. In all other principal factory classes employment in September, 1949 was well above the 1948 level.

TOTAL FACTORY EMPLOYEES (a) NEW SOUTH WALES - Thousands.

Factory Class	1939	1945	1947	1948		1949			
	July	July	July	July	Sept.	May	July	Aug.	Sept.
Bricks, cement, glass, etc.	12.3	10.4	15.4	15.9	16.1	17.1	11.9	16.5	17.2
Chemicals, paints, etc.	8.0	12.3	14.0	15.1	15.2	15.9	13.4	15.0	15.8
Metal trades (incl. vehicles)	81.3	143.7	147.5	151.8	151.6	152.4	114.0	144..	147.7
Textiles	14.7	17.8	21.3	21.8	21.9	21.9	13.4	21.3	22.1
Clothing	29.1	33.4	42.7	45.1	46.0	45.9	37.3	44.3	45.3
Food, Drink & Tobacco	26.4	32.5	34.4	35.3	35.8	37.1	31.8	36.1	36.8
Sawmills, woodwork, furniture	14.4	16.5	21.3	22.6	22.9	22.9	18.8	22.2	22.9
Paper, printing, etc.	16.4	15.7	20.2	20.7	20.9	21.5	20.2	21.2	21.5
Other Factories	15.5	20.0	25.7	28.0	28.0	28.3	23.3	27.1	28.0
All Factories - Men	158.8	216.6	255.7	265.2	265.8	269.5	210.1	257.6	263.9
Women	59.3	85.7	86.8	91.1	92.6	93.5	74.0	90.4	93.4
Total	218.1	302.3	342.5	356.3	358.4	363.0	284.1	348.0	357.3

(a) Excluding working proprietors.

By the end of September, 1949 about 10,000 New Australians from Eastern Europe had been placed in jobs in New South Wales and A.C.T. Most of the men are employed on construction work for the railways, Water Board and the defence authorities. About 400 men started work in the iron and steel industry (Newcastle) in September and others are working in building materials industry, cement and clay, and sawmills and on building sites. About 300 men were placed on stations and smaller numbers worked on other farms and forestry jobs. Most of the women were placed as domestics in hospitals and institutions (935), hotels and guest houses (387), and private households, incl. farms, (778). A smaller number were working in factories (148) and other jobs. These figures exclude New Australians working on the staff of migration centres.

PLACEMENT OF NEW AUSTRALIANS (FROM D.P.CAMPS), N.S.W. & A.C.T. as at end of Sept. 1949.

	Men	Women
Factories	1,170	148
Building (on site)	369	-
Construction (rail etc.)	4,569	2
Rural & Afforestation	725	6
Domestics: Hotels, Hospitals	491	1,320
Homes & Farms	59	778
Other Industries	247	121
Total	7,630	2,375

Figures published by the Commonwealth Employment Service for New South Wales point to an easing in the labour demand, but that may be a temporary sequence to the coal strike. The number of disengaged persons seeking jobs in September was 7,987 (about a thousand more than before the strike) while the number of unfilled vacancies registered fell from the peak of nearly 40,000 in April, 1949 to 28,749 in September.

REGISTRATIONS WITH COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE - N.S.W.

	April 1948			April 1949			September 1949		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Seeking Placement									
Disengaged	5289	1654	6943	4939	1863	6802	5945	2042	7987
In Jobs	1427	515	1942	1605	783	2388	1316	727	2043
Total	6716	2169	8885	6544	2646	9190	7261	2769	10030
Unfilled Vacancies	23261	13805	37066	24166	14366	38532	18393	10216	28749

A small surplus of applicants over vacancies is reported for male and females clerks (adults only) and sales staff, also for male drivers, caretakers etc. However, against that large unfilled labour requirements persisted for many types of factory, transport and rural work, and for hospital and domestic jobs for women.

OVERSEA MIGRATION - Australia.

The rate of immigration into Australia has increased rapidly during the past three years. Taking the excess of permanent arrivals over departures (permanency being defined by intention to reside for a year in Australia or abroad), the net gain from migration rose from 12,186 in the year 1947 to 48,468 in 1948 and 66,943 in the first half of 1949. In a recent statement (Commonwealth Hansard 8/9/1949) the Minister for Immigration estimated that 170,000 migrants will arrive in the year ended June, 1950, and that by the end of 1949 85,000 New Australians from displaced persons camps will have come to Australia. An occupational classification of 96,000 migrants (53,500 males and 42,500 females) who arrived in Australia in the 15 months ended March, 1949 showed that about half of them intended to take jobs, the balance being housewives, children and students.

OVERSEA MIGRATION - Australia

Permanent Migration (a) excl. troop movements	Six Years 1940-1945	Year 1946	Year 1947	Year 1948	Jan.- June 1949
Arrivals	48,676	18,217	31,765	65,739	76,725
Departures	27,875	29,806	19,579	17,271	9,782
Balance	+20,801	-11,589	+12,186	+48,468	+66,943

(a) Persons intending residence in Australia or abroad for a year or more; arrivals include war-time evacuees from England and Asia.

COAL PRODUCTION - New South Wales.

Coal output in New South Wales averaged about 225,000 tons a week in 1948 and 236,000 tons early in 1949 and has been between 266,000 tons to 295,000 tons a week since the end of the coal strike (15th August). The principal increase in production took place in underground mines, - from 208,000 tons a week before the general strike to 250,000 tons a week since then - due to reduced stoppages and absenteeism and higher output per manshift, partly because of increased mechanisation. Output from open-cuts in September and October, 1949 was equal to the pre-strike average of 28,000 tons a week, but it reached a record of 40,000 tons in the first week of November. Since September, coal supplies to public utilities and industry have been at or above pre-strike deliveries. In the four weeks ended 8th October, weekly consumption in New South Wales averaged 198,000 tons, as compared with 185,300 tons in September quarter, 1948 and 175,300 tons in March quarter, 1949, due mainly to increased supplies for coking and iron and steel refining which accounts for about a quarter of total coal consumption in this State.

PRODUCTION OF COAL - New South Wales - in thousand tons

	44 weeks to 8/11/47	43 weeks to 6/11/48	42 weeks to 5/11/49	WEEKLY AVERAGE to date shown			
				Year 1948	22 weeks 18/6/49	2 weeks 13/8/49	12 weeks 5/11/49
Underground	9,263	8,700	7,773	201	208	2	250
Open-cut	844	1,058	1,097	24	28	51	28
Total	10,107	9,758	8,870	225	236	53	278

WAGES & SALARIES - New South Wales

Total wages and salaries paid in New South Wales averaged about £4½ m. to £5 m. a week from 1943 to the early part of 1946. Rising employment and higher wage rates increased the total in June quarter to £6.25 mill. in 1947, £7.42 mill. in 1948 and £8.49 mill. in 1949. Average weekly earnings per male unit (see note below table) rose 40s. 6d. from about £7.4.6. in June quarter, 1947 to £9.5.0 in 1949 while the basic wage increased only by 17s. which indicates that a large portion of the rise in wage payments was due to increases in award margin, payments in excess of awards, incentive rates and perhaps also to overtime payments. The basic wage has since been increased to £6.12.0 (November, 1949). The seasonally adjusted index of average weekly wage earnings in Australia (male units) rose from an average of 1000 in 1945-46 to 1218 in June quarter, 1948 and 1,385 in 1949.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES & EARNINGS, NEW SOUTH WALES (incl. A.C.T.)

	New South Wales			Australia, Index
	Total Weekly Wages Paid	Average Weekly Earnings (a)	Weekly Basic Wage (b)	Av. Weekly Wage Earnings (a) (c)
Year	£mill.	£ per male unit		1945-46=1000
1941-42	4.20	5.15. 6	4.10. 6 (av.)	863
1942-43	4.62	6.12. 0	4.17. 0 (av.)	988
1944-45	4.72	6.15. 0	4.19. 0 (av.)	1013
June Qtr. 1946	5.38	6.15. 3	4.19. 0	1001
1947	6.25	7. 4. 6	5.10. 0	1077
1948	7.42	8. 5. 0	5.16. 0	1218
1949	8.49	9. 5. 0	6. 7. 0	1385 (prelim)

(a) Includes overtime, loadings, piecework earnings. Male units derived by adding 45% of female employment to male employment. (b) Adult males, Sydney. (c) Seasonally adjusted.

GAS & ELECTRICITY - New South Wales & Sydney.

After a period of restrictions in June/July and August gas and electricity production in New South Wales regained pre-strike level in September, 1949. Output of gas was 1,656 mill.cub.ft. as against 1,036 mill.cub.ft. in July and 1,730 mill.cub.ft. in May, and electricity generation which fell from 336 mill. kWh in May to 180 mill.kWh in July was 323 mill.KWH in September. The index of gas and electricity consumption for Sydney (seasonally adjusted, 1937-39=100) which had been nearly halved from 190 in May, 1949 to 96 in July was back at 140 in August and 189 in September, that is 6% above the 1948-49 average and 89% above pre-war.

GAS AND ELECTRICITY - Year and Month

N. S. W. Production	Year ended June			1948	1949			
	1939	1948	1949	Sept.	May	July	Aug.	Sept.
Gas mill.cub.ft.	10,896	18,093	18,161	1,586	1,730	1,036	1,370	1,656
Electricity mill.kWh.	1,948	3,546	3,718	317	336	180	262	323
Gas & El'y Consumption, Sydney Index-1937-39=100 (a)	104	174	179	185	190	96	140	189

(a) Seasonally adjusted.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales.

Since the termination of the general coal strike on 15th August disputes in New South Wales coal mines have been confined to short, localised stoppages, causing in all a loss of about 10,000 man-working days during September which is well below the average loss of earlier periods (nearly 40,000 man-working days a month in 1937-39, during the war and in 1948). The only major dispute in other industries was a three-day stoppage at the State abattoirs involving 1,200 employees.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales

Thousand Man-Days Lost

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS:

Railway passenger traffic in September, 1949 (20.65 mill passenger journeys) though recovering from the low level of the previous two months was still below pre-strike level, while goods traffic (1.55 mill.tons) recovered quickly and was equal to September, 1948 and 1947. Traffic loss because of the coal strike is reflected in the financial result for the September quarter, 1949. Gross earnings were £7.08 mill., that is £2.54 mill. less than in the same quarter of 1948, while working expenses were £8.21 mill., about the same as last year; leaving a deficiency on working account of £1.13 mill. for the quarter. As compensation for strike loss £3 mill. from the Commonwealth grant was allocated to the railways; this amount is not included in the figures for "gross earnings" quoted here.

Year	NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS					Month of September	
	Three months ended September						
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net (a)	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)
	Millions	Mill.tons	£mill.	£mill.	£mill.	Millions	Mill.tons
1938	46.9	3.48	4.70	3.55	1.15	15.5	0.88
1947	65.4	4.54	8.39	7.19	1.20	22.4	1.50
1948	64.6	4.62	9.62	8.16	1.46	21.1	1.57
1949	56.6	2.74	7.08	8.21	-1.13	20.6	1.55

(a) Excess of gross earnings over working expenses; excluding Government contribution £800,000 for developmental lines.

MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATIONS - New South Wales

Registrations of new motor vehicles in New South Wales remained at pre-strike levels in July and August, 1949 and increased further in September to 2,819 new cars and 1,583 new commercial vehicles. A record number of vehicles was on the State register at the end of September with 238,545 cars, 148,095 commercial vehicles and 6,708 public passenger vehicles. The number of cars was 9% higher than a year previously and 12% above pre-war, while the number of commercial vehicles about doubled during the past ten years.

REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES - New South Wales

Period	New Vehicles Registered		Civilian Vehicles on Register			Total of Foregoing (c)
	Cars	Lorries (a)	Cars	Public Pass. Vehicles (b)	Lorries (a)	
Year ended June	Monthly Averages		As at end of Period			
Av. 1937-1939	1,847	775	213,331	4,807	77,761	295,899
Av. 1942-1945	50	192	182,972	4,853	84,703	272,528
1948	1,388	802	210,506	6,262	130,811	347,579
1949	2,122	1,040	232,837	6,635	144,793	384,265
July - 1949	1,911	1,077	234,352	6,644	145,694	386,690
Aug. - 1949	2,163	1,180	236,096	6,633	146,694	389,423
Sep. - 1949	2,819	1,583	238,545	6,708	148,095	393,348

(a) Includes utilities, vans and road tractors. (b) Includes buses, taxis, hire cars and tourist cars. (c) Excludes motor cycles, trailers and trader's plates.

In new registrations the proportion of British cars has risen from about a third pre-war to 76% in the year ended June, 1949 and 80% in September quarter, 1949; registrations of the Australian Holden totalled 454 or 7% of the total in September quarter, while the share of American models fell from about two thirds pre-war to 12% in the latter period. American makes predominated for commercial vehicles until 1947-48 but they are being replaced more and more by British-built vehicles which made up 64% of new registrations in September quarter, 1949.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN N.S.W. By Country of Manufacture

	Motor Cars				Commercial Vehicles	
	Aust.	U.K.	Other-Europ.	U.S. & Can.	U.K.	U.S.A. & Can.
	Proportion of Total				Proportion of Total	
Year 1947-48	-	53%	1%	46%	18%	82%
Year 1948-49	3%	76%	2%	19%	50%	50%
Sep. Qtr. 1949	7%	80%	1%	12%	64%	36%

Petrol rationing in Australia was abolished on 6th June, 1949, following a Court decision but was reintroduced as from 15th November. The scale is as applied previously, with the provision that stored petrol in excess of 20 gall. is to be regarded as part of the consumer's ration. Australia's petrol consumption was calculated at 398 mill.gall. for 1947 and at the present scale of rationing is estimated to reach 440 mill.gall. in 1949-50 (Prime Minister's statement of 25/5/1949). Imports of refined petrol rose from 345 mill.gall. in 1938-39 to 404 mill.gall. in 1947-48, and their value doubled from £7.9 mill. to £15.8 mill. While consumer rationing reduced the consumption of petrol per vehicle for non-essential use, the increase in vehicle numbers, in particular in commercial vehicles, has greatly added to the total demand. Between June 1939 and 1949 the number of cars in Australia rose from 562,000 to 655,000 and of commercial vehicles from 258,000 to 452,000. No recent estimates of petrol consumption in New South Wales are available. Early in 1947, when the Pool distribution scheme ended, civilian consumption in this State ran at the rate of $10\frac{1}{2}$ mill.gall. a month and consumption of Government (incl.military) services required about 700,000 gall. a month. The smaller ration for non-essential use has been more than offset by the greater number of vehicles.

AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES - Australia & New South Wales.

Air transport in Australia has made rapid progress since the end of the war and reached new record levels in 1948-49, though traffic increased less rapidly in that year. On regular internal air services in Australia the number of passengers carried rose from about 148,000 in 1938-39 and 342,000 in 1944-45 to 1,232,000 in 1947-48 and 1,438,000 in 1948-49, while the weight of freight and mail carried rose from about 1,100 tons pre-war to 26,800 tons in 1947-48 and nearly 35,000 tons in 1948-49.

Passenger Journeys on air services with terminals in New South Wales rose from 484,000 in 1946-47 to 708,000 in 1947-48 and 834,000 in 1948-49. About 80% of that traffic was on inter-state routes, particularly to and from other State capitals. Traffic within the State has also grown considerably. The weight of freight and mail carried, chiefly on inter-state lines, increased by about a third over the year to 16,888 tons. Total mileage flown by all services with N.S.W. terminals rose at the rate of 5 mill. to 6 mill. miles a year from 5.4 mill. in 1944-45 to 21.7 mill. in 1947-48, and by a further 2 mill. to 23.7 mill. miles in 1948-49.

REGULAR CIVILIAN AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES - New South Wales

	Year ended June				June Quarter	
	1945	1947	1948	1949	1948	1949
<u>Passenger Journeys</u>						
Intrastate	4	54	96	120	26	32
Interstate	134	398	570	669	155	168
Overseas	6	32	42	45	9	11
All Services	144	484	708	834	190	211
<u>Freight & Mail Carried</u>						
Intrastate	5	358	471	632	103	218
Interstate	3,107	6,155	11,145	14,923	3,345	4,254
Overseas	140	814	1,208	1,333	314	336
All Services	3,252	7,327	12,824	16,888	3,762	4,807
<u>Miles Flown</u>						
All Services	5,439	15,794	21,656	23,753	5,722	5,959

Note: Regular Air Services with terminal in New South Wales as shown in returns published by Department of Civil Aviation. Intra-state passengers carried on interstate lines counted in the latter service.

IRON & STEEL PRODUCTION.

Since iron and steel works resumed work in August production has been maintained above pre-strike levels. Output of pig iron in New South Wales in September was 94,000 tons and of ingot steel 134,000 tons; that is 24% and 38% respectively above the 1948-49 average. Present Australian steel production is insufficient for current demand and some supplies are being imported from the United Kingdom, France and other countries.

PRODUCTION - New South Wales - in 000 tons.

	Year ended May			1948		1949 (Month)	
	1939	1948	1949	Sect.	July	August	Sept.
Coke (Metallurgic)	1136	1366	1138	114	12	55	120
Pig Iron	1105	1030	901	84	16	40	94
Ingot Steel	1168	1343	1164	107	nil.	46	134

PART II. FINANCE AND TRADE

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS - New South Wales

New deposits lodged with the Commonwealth Savings Bank in New South Wales declined from £15.9 mill. in July, 1949 to £14.9 mill. in August but recovered to £15.8 mill. in September. Withdrawals in September (£15.8 mill.) were comparatively high. For the whole September quarter of 1949 depositors' balances increased from by £1.6 mill. to £246.1 mill. as against a rise of £1.3 mill. to £237 mill. in 1948.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (£ million)

Period	New South Wales				TOTAL DEPOSITS	
	Deposits Lodged	Withdrawals Made	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	Interest added	N.S.W.	Australia
1938-39 July-June	66.6	67.2	- 0.6	1.6	87.5	245.6
1945/46 July-June	191.3	156.8	+34.5	3.6	236.3	663.6
1946/47 July-June	159.2	167.9	- 8.7	3.8	231.4	660.0
1947/48 July-June	161.0	159.2	+ 1.8	3.8	237.0	681.3
1948/49 July-June	171.8	168.2	+ 3.6	3.9	244.5	714.2
1948-Sept. Quarter	42.1	41.8	+ 0.3		237.3	685.0
1949-Sept. Quarter	46.6	45.0	+ 1.6		246.1	

TRADING BANKS - Australia

After a seasonal drop in trading bank deposits from £831 mill. in April, 1949 to £791 mill. in August (a fall of £37 mill. if adjustments are taken into account, see note below) they increased by £11 mill. to £802 mill. in September. Trading bank advances reached the record figure of £394 mill. at the end of September and the banks' holdings of Treasury bills, Government securities and cash also increased substantially over the month. The funds for finance of the mid-year seasonal demands on the trading banks were provided chiefly by releases from Special Accounts, held by the Commonwealth Bank; they were reduced from £389 mill. in May, 1949 to £326 mill. in August and £308 mill. in September.

NINE TRADING BANKS - Business within Australia

Month (Weekly Averages)	Deposits at Credit of Customers	Balances due to Other Banks	Advances to Secur- Customer ties	Public A/c with C/wth Bank	Treas ury Bills	Cash Items	Ratios to Deposits	
	£million	£million	£million	£mill.	£mill.	£mill.	Advan ces %	Spec ial A/c %
1939-September	315	1	295	22	-	17	33	94 -
1946-September	622	1	244	110	251	27	37	39 40
1947-September	639	3	316	76	236	14	46	49 37
1948-June	717	27	349	59	293	19	46	49 41
August	688	36	362	60	272	12	46	53 40
September	719	28	363	59	267	20	54	51 37
1949-April	831(a)	34	373(a)	63	379	19	44	45 46
June	817(a)	50	383(a)	62	381	11	40	47 47
August	791(a)	38	390(a)	73	326	13	47	49 41
September	802(a)		394(a)	77	308	17	50	49 38

(a) Following technical adjustments in bank returns, deposits and advances were reduced by £9 million as from January, 1949, and a further £3 mill. in July, 1949.

The nine principal trading banks (two in process of amalgamation) three foreign banks and the Commonwealth Bank and Rural Bank transact trading bank business in New South Wales. In September, 1949, the Commonwealth and Rural Banks held £51 mill. in deposits, or 15% of the total of 14 banks and had granted loans amounting to £62 mill. or 29% of the total.

New South Wales - September 1949

	Deposits £mill.	Advances £mill.
Nine Principal Trading Banks	297.09	151.12
Three Foreign Banks	3.80	1.81
Rural Bank, General Bank Department	12.71	31.38
Commonwealth Bank, General Banking, Rural Credits,		
Mortgage Bank, Industrial Finance Departments	38.87	30.38
All Fourteen Banks	352.47	214.69

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS:

State revenue for the September quarter of 1949 totalled £22.82 mill. and expenditure £23.48 mill., leaving a deficiency of £660,000 as against a deficiency of £460,000 in the same quarter of 1948. Receipts from the Commonwealth for tax reimbursements rose by £700,000 and for hospital benefits by £150,000. State tax receipts were also slightly higher. On the expenditure side departmental appropriations required £1.35 mill. more than in 1948. Receipts by the railways (£9.83 mill.) and trams and bus services (£2.26 mill.) include Commonwealth grants of £3 mill. and £200,000 respectively. Railway expenditure in the 1949 period, £8.23 mill. was less than in 1948 and the rise of £270,000 in expenditure on tram and bus account was less than the increase in receipts of these services.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS (£ thousands)

Revenue Item	September Quarter			Expenditure Item	September Quarter		
	1947	1948	1949		1947	1948	1949
From Commonwealth (1)	4,298	4,741	5,583	Net Debt Charges	3,587	3,985	4,212
State Taxation	2,302	2,650	2,749	Other ex Debt Charges	-	-	-
Other Governmental	1,792	2,052	2,001	Governmental	6,571	7,316	8,662
Railways (2)	8,182	9,486	9,831	Railways	7,317	8,316	8,230
Tram & Bus Services (2)	1,892	1,911	2,258	Tram & Bus Services	1,849	1,867	2,144
Sydney Harbour	342	382	397	Sydney Harbour	176	200	228
TOTAL REVENUE	18,808	21,222	22,819	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,500	21,684	23,476

(1) Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interest and hospital benefits.

(2) Including in 1949 Commonwealth grants towards losses due to coal strike, £3 mill. for railways and £200,000 for trams & buses.

Works expenditure from loan funds totalled £6.61 mill. in September quarter 1949 as against £4 mill. in 1948. The loan programme approved recently by the Loan Council provides for £13 mill. for State Government works in New South Wales for 1949-50 and for £15.3 mill. for works undertaken by semi-government and local authorities in this State. This programme is subject to review later in the year.

RETAIL TRADE (Large Sydney Stores)

The rising trend in retail sales began to level off in June quarter, 1949 when sales were about 6% above June quarter, 1948 compared with rises of 17% in the previous quarter and 16% for the year 1948 over 1947. Sales values in July and August, 1949 were 16% and 3% below 1948, due to lighting and transport restrictions and wage losses during the coal strike. Clothing prices (retail index) in September quarter, 1949 were 13% higher and food prices (food and groceries index) 9% higher than in the same quarter of 1948, so that the fall in sales value was probably greater than the decrease in money values. The Commonwealth Bank's seasonally adjusted retail sales index on the basis of 1938/39=100, (three months moving averages) reached a peak of 263 in April 1949, falling to 210 in June; for July it was 226 and for August (prelim.) 239, as compared with 248 in August, 1948.

Stock values in August, 1949 were 6% above 1948, but this increase is less than the average rise in price levels.

RETAIL TRADE - LARGE SYDNEY STORES
Percentage Increase on same period of previous year

Month or Quarter	VALUE OF SALES			Month	VALUE OF STOCKS		
	1947	1948	1949		1947	1948	1949
March Quarter	15	20	17	March	38	30	7
June Quarter	19	19	6	June	35	27	8
July	12	30	-16	July	29	19	9
August	17	19	-3	August	33	17	6
Increase eight months ended August	16	20	6		36	24	8

Principal falls in sales value in August, 1949 compared with 1948 were in piece goods and men's and women's wear. Turnover in furniture and hardware remained practically unchanged. There was an appreciable increase in stocks of piece goods, men's wear and boots and shoes.

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

The firm tone which has prevailed on the stock-market since July continued throughout October, and prices of industrial, pastoral and insurance shares moved steadily upward.. The index for 75 company shares advanced from an average of 252.1 in September to 257.3 in October, - the highest point since February, 1949 and only 6% below the peak of January 1948. Even larger gains were recorded for mining shares (which are not included in above index). The Sydney Stock Exchange's composite mining index rose by about 13% after the sterling devaluation.

INDEX OF SHARES PRICES - Sydney (Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician).
Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. Banks) - Par Value=100

Month	Manufact'g & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939-August	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942-March	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1946-December	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1948-January	361.4	315.5	184.7	191.7	407.8	271.5	283.7
October	354.9	262.3	173.5	180.2	419.1	262.4	272.9
1949-July	323.6	271.4	153.5	173.5	456.1	239.7	244.2
August	332.2	286.3	155.9	184.0	464.9	247.8	255.0
September	340.1	289.1	157.8	183.7	473.6	252.1	259.0
October	350.6	289.5	156.9	187.0	482.3	257.3	266.5

NOTE: Regulations restricting trading and price movements in company shares imposed in February, 1942, with subsequent amendments, were rescinded in January, 1947.

COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS

Commonwealth revenue in the four months ended October 1949 was £148.1 mill., that is about £1.1 mill. more than in the same period of 1948. Customs & Excise receipts were £3.3 mill. higher in 1949 but Income Tax, including Social Service Contributions, at reduced rates yielded £5.8 mill. less. Expenditure from revenue, combined with war service expenditure from loan funds, was £153.2 mill. in the four months of 1949 as against £126.4 mill. last year. Social Services payments rose from £21.9 mill. to £30.2 mill., including rises in child endowment from £5.7 m. to £10 m. (higher rates), in age and invalid pensions from £12.2 m. to £14.2 m., and in unemployment and sickness benefits from £440,000 to £1.6 m. (coal strike). More was also required in 1949 for tax reimbursements to the States, departmental appropriations and capital works. The total charge for defence, war and repatriation and debt service was £54.7 m. in the 1948 period and £57.3 m. in 1949. Increased costs of the P.M.G. services were only partly covered by higher revenue on that account. In 1948 a surplus of £20.6 mill. on revenue account for the four months was credited to loan funds for defence while in 1949 about £5.1 mill. was expended from these loan funds.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS (£ millions)

Item	Revenue			Expenditure			Budget 1949-50
	4 months ended		Budget	4 months ended		Budget	
	October	Year	1948	1949	1949-50	1948	1949
Customs & Excise	40.9	44.2	124.5	Social Services(1)	21.9	30.2	100.4
Sales Tax	13.0	13.1	35.0	States: Tax Reimb.	11.9	14.3	62.4
Income Tax & S.S.C.	69.4	63.6	276.0	Other	7.0	8.4	38.8
Payroll Tax	6.3	7.0	22.0	P.M.G. & Broadcast'g	10.6	13.2	41.6
Entertainment Tax	1.6	1.6	4.2	Defence)	12.6	44.2
Other Taxes	2.0	2.8	9.5	War & Repat.(2)	54.7	18.9	73.8
Total Taxation	133.2	132.3	471.2	Debt Charges)	25.8	65.3
P.M.G. & Broadcasting	10.7	12.1	40.3	Capital Works	7.5	12.9	68.9
Other Revenue	3.1	3.7	20.5	Other Expenditure	12.8	16.9	51.0
TOTAL REVENUE	147.0	148.1	532.0	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	126.4	153.2	546.4

Note:-Self-balancing Items excluded.

(1) Actual expenditure from Nat. Welfare Fund, excl. surplus (budgeted at £20.6 m. for 1949-50). (2) Excluding credit to loan fund £20.6 m. in 1947-48, but includes £5.1 m. charged to loan fund in 1949 and £35m. provided from loans in budget.

REAL ESTATE AND MORTGAGES - New South Wales.

The value of real estate transfers and conveyances registered in New South Wales averaged about £5 mill. a month in 1948, rose to about £7 mill. in July, 1949 and reached the record figure of £8 mill. in September, when price controls on house sales were lifted; in October the value was £7.20 mill. The number of transactions has increased less than their value as turnover in recent months included some high-priced city property. Several substantial mortgages on city property have contributed to a rise in registered new mortgages from an average of £2.70 mill. a month in 1948-49 to over £4 mill. each in August, September and October, 1949.

REGISTERED REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - New South Wales

SALES	Number £.mill.	Year ended June			1948		1949	
		1939	1948	1949	October	July	August	Sept.
MORTGAGES	£mill.	25.07	30.92	32.52	2.56	3.82	4.20	4.01
								4.50

OVERSEAS TRADE - Australia.

Merchandise imports into Australia in September, 1949 reached the record figure of £40.9 mill., making a total of £113 mill. for the September quarter, 1949 as against £102.6 mill. in 1948, the principal increases being in machinery and motor vehicles. Exports which are seasonally low in September quarter amounted to £109.1 in 1949, or £12.6 mill. less than in 1948, mainly due to the reduced value of wheat and flour shipments. The exceptionally buoyant trade position in 1948 resulted in a heavy export surplus for the quarter; in 1949, as has often been the case in that quarter, imports exceeded exports - by about £3.9 mill. As imports are recorded in £A converted from foreign currencies at the date of shipment, import values for September were not yet appreciably affected by devaluation.

OVERSEAS TRADE - AUSTRALIA - MERCHANDISE ONLY - £Amill. f.o.b. Value.

	Year ended June			September Quarter		
	1939	1948	1949	1947	1948	1949
Exports	121.5	405.0	545.6	66.2	121.7	109.1
Imports	124.1	338.1	414.0	79.4	102.6	113.0
Balance	-2.6	66.9	131.6	-13.2	19.1	-3.9

Comparing the September quarters 1948 and 1949 exports to the United Kingdom (£48 mill.) remained practically unchanged while imports rose by £6 mill. to £57 mill., whilst due to an increase of £4 mill. in import values and a fall in exports, mainly wool, the adverse trade balance with U.S.A. and Canada rose from £1.1 mill. to £8.7 mill.

Dissection of Australian imports according to currency areas shows that imports from sterling countries increased from £114.7 mill. in 1946-47 to £274.8 mill. in 1948-49, and as a proportion of total imports, from 53% to 68%. In 1948-49 imports from the dollar area, mainly U.S.A. and Canada, amounted to £53.9 mill., the principal items being tobacco £3.6 mill., petrol and mineral oil £5.5 mill., tinplate £2.6 mill., motor vehicles and parts £6.5 mill., aircraft and part £2.5 mill., machinery £12.9 mill. and timber £3 mill. Principal imports from other non-sterling countries were cotton (Brazil, Egypt), piece goods and yarns, oils (Middle East) and paper.

IMPORTS - Australia £A mill. f.o.b. values.

	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Dollar Area	n.a.	n.a.	53.9
Other Non-Sterling	n.a.	n.a.	78.5
Non-Sterling Group	90.5	141.3	132.4
Sterling Group	114.7	191.8	274.8
Total	215.2	333.1	407.2

THE SEASON:

Comparatively warm weather prevailed over the State in October and rainfall in most districts was more than double the average for the month. Seasonal conditions generally have been very favourable during the past three months. Pastures and stock are doing very well, and crop prospects also are considered good although some rust has been reported from Northern wheat areas.

RAINFALL INDEX - New South Wales.
Norman Rainfall - 100 for each month and year.

	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Coastal Dairying Districts			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total
1946 - Year	77	68	101	87	83	62	69	102	88	84	89	80	85
1947 - Year	126	131	119	145	127	118	130	124	125	118	109	96	113
1948 - Year	102	103	99	92	101	98	100	96	97	106	95	96	102
1949 - June	111	105	56	46	84	110	112	37	65	99	282	317	174
- July	63	62	104	62	76	51	65	111	92	85	143	61	97
- August	91	68	25	24	56	108	67	23	46	189	202	48	174
- Sept.	256	191	104	168	179	272	187	106	148	76	208	157	120
- Oct.	277	197	242	283	243	246	176	258	235	235	117	97	187

N. Northern; C. Central; S. Southern; W. Western.

W H E A T:

Seasonal conditions were favourable in the State's wheat districts during September quarter but excessive rain in October caused some rust damage. Harvesting commenced in the North in November. The Wheat Board expects 60-70 mill.bushels to be harvested in New South Wales and about 180 mill.bushels in Australia, but stress that the ripening and harvesting weather can affect the result considerably.

Following the devaluation of the Canadian currency in terms of U.S.dollars the maximum-minimum price range under the International Wheat Agreement for 1949/50 was revised to \$Can.1.98-\$Can.1.65 per bus. for bulk wheat (No.1 Manitoba Northern in store Vancouver) which means that Australia will receive 13/5 and 16/1 a bushel f.o.b. for 80 mill.bushel exported during the season ended July, 1950 as compared with 9/4 to 11/3 under the old exchange rate. That is a substantial increase on previous contract prices (11/10 to 13/8 per bus. bulk f.o.b. under the 1948-49 contract with the United Kingdom. The Australian home consumption price for wheat for the current year is fixed at 6/8 per bus.bulk, f.o.r.ports. The movement of export prices of wheat not sold under bulk agreements is shown below. The Australian Wheat Board's price reached a peak of £1.0.10 per bus. (see note below) in February-May, 1948 and then receded to 14/5 in June-August, 1949; after devaluation the price was fixed at about £1.0.6 (£1 for bulk and £1.0.10 for bagged wheat, but it appears that the greater part of export wheat and flour will be sold under the terms of the International Wheat Agreement.

WHEAT EXPORT PRICE - Australia and Canada

	Year 1939	Year 1946	Dec. 1947	April 1948	Sept. 1948	Aug. 1949	Oct. 1949
	Pence per Bushel (1)						(2)
A/An Wheat Board							
Basic Exp.Price	29	131	238	250	208	173	246
No.1 Nth.Manitoba							
Basis Store Fort William.	62	135	329	271	222	206	238

(1) Average bulk and bagged; f.o.r. ports; for 1939 shippers' limits f.o.r. ports

(2) As from 20/9/1949 - £1 for bulk and £1.1.0 for bagged wheat.

DAIRYING:

Dairy districts, other than the flood-affected areas, are experiencing a good season, and butter production for the September quarter, 12.1 mill. lbs, was the best for that quarter since 1945. The output in the month of September, 1949 was 5.6 mill. lbs, compared with 4.6 mill. lbs. in September 1948.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, New South Wales
(in million lbs.)

Period	Average 3 years		1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50
	1937-38 to 1939-40	1943-44 to 1945-46				
July to September	17.52	11.58	8.65	9.86	10.76	12.09
Oct. to June	96.41	66.38	51.73	66.21	63.76	...
Year	113.93	77.96	60.38	76.07	74.52	...

WOOL.

Wool prices increased under strong bidding by oversea buyers at New South Wales auctions during October. The average price for the month was 51½d per lb. greasy (see note below table), that is 6½d above September and only 3d below the peak reached in February, 1949. The average for the 1948-49 season was 46.8d. While there was good demand for all types of wool offered, the bidding at the October sales favoured crossbred types and skirtings which showed greater price advances than fine merino wool. With commodity prices still rising and competition becoming keener in the textile trade the demand for cheaper types of wool is taken as an indication of efforts to keep raw materials costs down.

AVERAGE PRICE OF GREASY WOOL - NEW SOUTH WALES - Pence per lb. greasy

Season ended 30th June	d. per lb.	Month (a)	d. per lb.
1939	10.3	1947 October	34.0
1943-46 (average)	15.1 (b)	1948 October	43.5
1947	23.6	1949 February	54.5
1948	37.9	June-September	45.0
1949	46.8	October	51.5

(a) Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at price level of that month. (b) On basis of British Government contract; exclusive of profits from resale of J.O. stocks, as yet undistributed.

A review of world production of the main apparel fibres shows that apparel wool production in 1948-49, estimated at 1,730 mill. lbs, clean basis, was higher than in 1947-48 but below the wartime average. Cotton production also rose above 1947-48. Both production of wool and of cotton were near pre-war level while the output of synthetic fibres (which has exceeded wool in weight of production since 1938) nearly doubled during the war and made up 14% of total clothing fibre output in 1948-49 as against only 7% in 1934-38.

World Production-Clothing Fibres (mill.lbs.clean basis)

	Yearly Average 1934-38	Yearly Average 1939-45	Year 1947-48	Year 1948-49
Wool (Apparel)	1,713	1,770	1,685	1,730
Cotton	14,507	12,120	12,090	13,744
Silk	121	90	29	29
Synthetic Fibres	1,265	2,357	2,024	2,529

(Estimates by Commonwealth Economic Committee and F.A.O. Estimates of wool production on greasy basis for 1948-49 are: apparel 1,285 mill.lbs of merino type and 1,735 mill. lbs. of crossbred type; also 770 mill.lbs. of carpet wool.)